

Position: Grounds Specialist I – Fields

Salary Range: 25

**Summary**

Performs a variety of skilled work in the preparation and maintenance of grounds and athletic fields; installation, maintenance, and repair of sprinkler irrigation systems; and/or the construction of special landscaping or play areas.

**Distinguishing Characteristics**

This position reflects competency in several areas of specialization requiring advanced training, education or experience. Examples of “skilled” work include, but are not limited to (1) design, installation, and maintenance of irrigation systems; (2) operation of the most demanding equipment such as backhoes; (3) recognition of landscape and horticultural design sufficient to layout, contour, and construct special areas and fields. Employment in this classification requires broad-based experience as a Grounds Equipment Operator and/or additional college level course work in horticulture, landscape architecture, or a related field.

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities**

- Operates specialized and demanding machinery to dig, excavate, contour, and construct special land uses such as athletic fields and pedestrian parks.
- Operates combination front loader/back hoe, trenchers, dump trucks, and equivalent machinery. Inspects machinery before use to ensure proper servicing and safe operating condition.
- Operates other demanding equipment such as jackhammers, compressors, and an array of common power tools.
- Trains other staff in the proper use of specialized and heavy equipment.
- Mows, grooms and contours playfields to a high degree of quality for athletics events.
- Applies specialized knowledge of sports and grounds work to maintain and rejuvenate playfields.
- Lines athletic fields according to CIF standards for competitive sports.
- Coordinates with athletics department to ensure playfield readiness for athletic events and practices.
- Communicates effectively with students, staff, parents and the public using tact, diplomacy and courtesy in sometimes confrontational or stressful situations.
- Performs other duties as assigned that support the overall objective of the position.
- Requires the ability to comprehend and follow district safety plans, procedures, and policies and all other district standards and procedures.

## **Qualifications**

### **▪ Knowledge and Skills**

Requires a thorough knowledge of all of the following: (1) irrigation system design, operations and maintenance including the machinery and equipment used in installation and maintenance of irrigation systems (electrical and computerized systems); (2) medium to heavy equipment of operation of backhoes, trenchers, brush cutters, large trucks, etc.; (3) skill with general construction tools, equipment and vehicles. Must have strong planning, prioritizing and delegation skills. Requires leadership skills sufficient to lead, train, and assign work duties. Requires communication skills to discuss and impart technical information and to carry out routine communications encountered in the position.

### **▪ Abilities**

Must be able to operate large vehicle, excavating and other mechanical equipment safely. Requires the ability to use and operate hand tools, power tools, and mechanical equipment in a safe and efficient manner. Ability to read and understand written information including Material Safety Data Sheets. Must be able to adapt and learn new procedures and programs as implemented by the District. Must be familiar with Health and Safety regulations. Requires the ability to communicate with peers and other District staff or public in a manner reflecting positively on the department and District.

### **▪ Physical Abilities**

Work is always outdoors, sometimes in extreme weather conditions. Requires the ability to stand, walk, and manipulate (lift, carry, move) light to medium weights of up to 50 pounds on a frequent basis and push, pull, guide over 50 pounds on an occasional basis. Stoops, kneels, and crouched on a regular basis. Requires sufficient hand-eye coordination, hand and finger dexterity including ability to grasp, and visual acuity to operate equipment and read technical and safety information.

### **▪ Education and Experience**

High School diploma or equivalent required. Demonstrated ability to read and understand Material Safety Data Sheets. Minimum of 3 years of increasingly responsible experience performing in areas such as irrigation system installation and maintenance, operation of excavating equipment, or having specialized knowledge of landscaping and horticultural techniques through post-high school training.

### **▪ Licenses and Certificates**

Requires valid California Driver's License, Pesticide Applicators License, and first aid training/CPR card.